

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are pending.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9, rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ronstrom (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,707) in view of Mutalik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,923).

Claims 3-7 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ronstrom (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,707) in view of Mutalik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,923) in further view of Yanai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,544,347).

An interview was conducted with the examiner on June 1, 2006, for which the undersigned is appreciative. The examiner indicated that the "bit map" feature, recited in claim 2 for example, appeared to distinguish over the art of record, subject to an additional search.

Accordingly, the independent claims have been amended to recite in substance the limitation of "difference control information being a bit map that indicates the presence or absence of completion of data duplication of said first and second update data at a plurality of individual units of data storage in each of said first and second storage devices."

In addition, the independent claims have been amended to address the Section 112 rejection. In particular, the language "holds the same data is duplicated in said first and second information processing systems" was deemed to be vague. The claims have been amended to more positively recite the copying operation that produces the situation of holding duplicate data.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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